26th September 1955]

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : I acknowledge the information given by the hon. Member.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : May I know in what way the Government propose to improve this Cooum River and the Buckingham Canal? What are the defects noticed by the Government and what are the methods proposed by Government to rectify the defects?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Sir, it is a wide question. I must have technical opinion before I can answer the question of the hon. Member.

Compensation for loss of tolls

* 2492 *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total amount due to Malabar District Board from the Government by way of compensation for loss of tolls in the year 1954–55;

(*b*) whether any representation has been received from the Board regarding the adequacy or otherwise of the above; and

(*c*) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) Rs. 2,08,000.

(*b*) Representation was received from the Malabar District Board about enhancing the licence fee compensation payable to it but not about toll compensation.

(*c*) As the proposal of the Government of India to lay down a uniform taxation policy in regard to motor vehicles throughout India is likely to affect the motor vehicles taxation structure in this State, this Government are awaiting the decision of the Government of India in the matter; so the question of enhancing the toll and licence fee compensations payable to local bodies has been deferred.

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Sir, this question relates to payment of compensation for loss of toll in the year 1954–55. The Government have already collected tolls for the year 1954–55. Therefore the Government can very well pay the compensation to the district board. The question is, will the Government pay the compensation for the year concerned. That is not at all affected by the future taxation policy which may be adopted by the Government. Will the Government reconsider their decision in the matter, Sir?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : We have to examine what amount we have to pay in proportion to the number of vehicles running in the district. This matter is being examined as it really needs some examination.